

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A fermented plant extract obtained by a method for fermentation and culture comprising the following steps: fermenting a material derived from an edible plant which contains a glucide whose major component is a polysaccharide, said plant having a facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium which lives in a symbiotic relationship exclusively with the plant; and simultaneously culturing solely said facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium in a medium containing no component derived from an animal.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Fermented plant extract powder obtained from the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The fermented plant extract according to claim 12 which exhibits an ability of macrophage activation even with a presence of polymyxin B.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The fermented plant extract according to claim 12 which has an immunopotential activity.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A food containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 19 (previously Presented): A bath agent containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A food containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A bath agent containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A fermented plant extract obtained by a method for fermentation and culture comprising the following steps: fermenting a material derived from an edible plant which contains a glucide whose major component is a polysaccharide, said plant having a facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium which lives in a symbiotic relationship exclusively with the plant; and simultaneously culturing solely said facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium in a medium containing no component derived from an animal; said facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium is bacillus belonging to the genus *Pantoea*; and said edible plant is selected from a food grain, a seaweed or a bean, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 27 (previously Presented): Fermented plant extract powder obtained from the fermented plant extract according to claim 26.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A composition containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 26.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A composition containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 27.

Claim 30-32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A fermented plant extract obtained by-fermenting a material derived from an edible plant which contains a glucide whose major component is a polysaccharide, said plant having a facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium which lives in a symbiotic relationship with the plant; and simultaneously culturing solely said gram-negative bacterium in a medium containing no component derived from an animal; said facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium is *Pantoea agglomerans*; and said edible plant is selected from a food grain, a seaweed or a bean, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): Fermented plant extract powder obtained from the fermented plant extract according to claim 33.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising the fermented plant extract according to claim 33.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 34.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A composition containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A composition containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.